First Nations Forestry Program

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Indian and Northern Affairs Canada / Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada

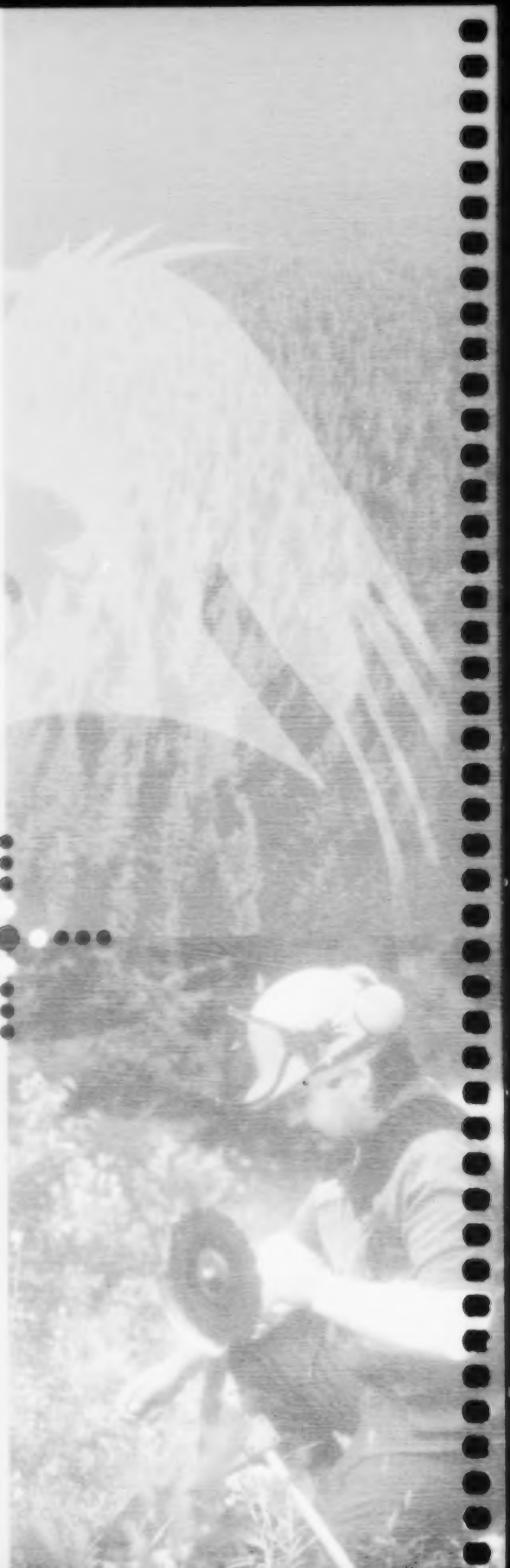
Canada

First Nations Forestry Program

The purpose of the

First Nations Forestry Program

is to improve economic conditions in status First Nation communities with full consideration of the principles of sustainable forest management.



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An Exploration of On-reserve Forest Management Capacity and Forest Certification Interest in First Nations Communities across Canada

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The opinions found within this report are those of the authors and may or may not be shared by the First Nations Forestry Program.

For further information, please contact:

First Nations Forestry Program

Canadian Forest Service
Natural Resources Canada
580 Booth Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0E4

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Lands Directorate
10 Wellington Street
Gatineau, Quebec
K1A 0H4

Aboriginal Strategy Group

Head Office:
41 Chiefs Rd
Akwesasne, Ontario
K6H 5R7

Branch Office:
196 Mafeking Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K1K 2V5

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Executive Summary

The degree to which First Nation controlled forest lands, on and off-reserve, have a forest management plan in place to provide forest products and services varies across the country. Forest management plans (FMPs) are complex, costly, time consuming and require high levels of expertise and collaboration. Forest certification has also become an increasingly important aspect of forest management as seen in the increased interest in forest certification schemes. First Nations community level interest in and knowledge of forest certification processes for their forested lands are most often not fully understood.

A survey of 19 First Nation communities that received funding from the First Nations Forestry Program and its predecessor program to complete FMPs between 1984 and 1997 reveals a number of important findings on forest management planning and forest certification of on-reserve forest lands. They include:

- **Forest Management Plans:** More than half of the communities had a plan in place or were updating older plans. Plans tended to occur in communities where human and financial resources were dedicated to forestry programs on an annual basis. For the most part there is a heavy reliance on off-reserve forestry expertise to complete these complex and detailed FMPs.
- **Awareness of Forest Certification:** Most forestry program staff members are aware of forest certification and can name at least one certification scheme, however, they report that community awareness and knowledge of forest certification is extremely limited to non-existent.

First Nation communities continue to struggle with the development of FMPs for their on and off-reserve forest lands. In addition, pursuit of a forest certification scheme appears to be a low priority for most communities. Communities that consistently support forestry/natural resource programs are in a better position to develop those plans since a high level of program continuity is a precursor to continued success. For the most part their ability to complete tasks required for a forest management plan or program are hampered by a lack of resources either human, financial or technological.

We recommend that in the next twelve months the First Nations Forestry Program, First Nation communities, other government agencies, forest industry leadership and non-governmental organizations take a number of steps to:

- **Insulate forestry programs:** Changes at the political level have large impacts on program continuation and consistency. Investigate other institutional arrangements that can create a more stable resource management environment.
- **Infrastructure development:** Develop creative partnership, training and economic development arrangements between First Nation communities and government, industry or environmental non-governmental organizations that support infrastructure development of a community forestry/natural resources program.

Innovative funding arrangements, partnerships, collaboration and long-term planning can assist Canada's First Nation communities to be more capable to meet their own vision and relationship with the land.

Introduction

The First Nations Community and Forest Management

Most recent estimates place 80% of First Nations communities in the productive forests of Canada (National Aboriginal Forestry Association submission to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples). First Nations community experiences and interests with the forest management of on and off-reserve lands vary across the country. Communities have entered into forest industry partnership enterprises, have participated on co-management boards, have protested industrial forest activities on their traditional lands or have developed community value-driven forest use plans. First Nations people continue to confront their communities, government agencies and the forest industry on issues of Aboriginal interests, values or knowledge, both on and off reserve.

Aboriginal interests, values and knowledge associated with forest resources continue to attract attention. One example of Aboriginal knowledge having increased non-Aboriginal acceptance and use is traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), which is described by Berkes as:

"... a cumulative body of knowledge, practice, and belief, evolving by adaptive processes and handed down through generations by cultural transmission, about the relationship of living beings (including humans) with one another and their environment."

Berkes, 1999, pg.8

TEK has been used in co-management board decisions on the management of caribou (Usher, 1993) and forest management planning (MacGregor, 2000). There are also organizations dedicated to the increased recognition of Aboriginal forestry interests. One such group is the National Aboriginal Forestry Association, a not for profit, non-governmental organization that facilitates Aboriginal involvement in the forest sector. They have addressed specific issues such as TEK, duty to consult, forest tenure, forest certification and Aboriginal Rights & Title on the forest land base. In addition, recent court cases in Canada have provided more direction and more requirements for provincial governments. These outcomes encourage meaningful consultation with Aboriginal communities and affect provincial forest policies and forest licence agreements.

On-Reserve Forest Management

First Nations communities have implemented a wide variety of forest management schemes and protocols for on-reserve lands. While most forest activities occur under approval of Chief and Council some communities have created forestry businesses or development corporations that take forestry decisions out of the political framework. Community forestry duties are most often implemented through a Band Councillor, economic development officer or a forestry officer. The amount of funding available to forestry programs is dependent on Band income, funding programs such as the First Nations Forestry Program (FNFP), or the income of the corporation, as is the case with development corporations. Thus

the ability of First Nations communities to carry out forest management of their on-reserve land base varies greatly.

Forest Certification On and Off-Reserve Lands

Forest certification is defined as, "a voluntary process that results in a written certificate being produced by an independent third-party attesting to the location, management status of the forest from where the forest product originated[1]". Current reports[2] indicate few First Nations communities have pursued forest certification of their on-reserve lands and off-reserve forest ventures. Forest Stewardship Council and ISO are most the common certification programs pursued by First Nations communities. First Nations communities that are impacted by off-reserve forestry activities are attracted to certification schemes that promote sustainable forest management, Aboriginal interests and multi-stakeholder participation. The Canadian forest industry has applied a wider range of other certification schemes, including:

Canadian Standards Association (CSA)

International Organization of Standardization (ISO)

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

ForestCare (Alberta Forest Products Association initiative)

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)

The three most commonly applied certification programs in Canada are FSC, SFI and CSA. All three are considered to be performance-based and provide independent, third party auditing[3], chain of custody procedures[4], certified products labelling[5] and multi-stakeholder involvement. A detailed comparison of these three forest certification schemes is presented in Appendix I.

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1 "Current Issues in Forest Certification in Canada" (1996). World Wildlife Fund Canada discussion paper, page iii.

2 Certification schemes achieved by Canadian companies can be viewed at: http://www.sfms.com/status.htm

3 Inspection of forest lands and forestry plans by an independent certified body that has been accredited to do such work on behalf of the forest certification program.

4 Certification of processors and manufacturers which gives them the right to both use certified wood products and sell their goods as certified.

5 When chain-of-custody for a product has been verified by a **third party**, the product may carry a label indicating that it came from a forest managed to one of the recognized forest certification standards.

Project Background

Since the late 1980's the First Nations Forestry Program (FNFP) and its predecessor funding agency have funded First Nations community projects that embrace sustainable forest management and improved community economic wellbeing. Among other activities, FNFP funds have been made available for the development or updating of forest management plans, however relatively little information exists as to the extent in which forest management plans are being implemented on-reserve.

Within the last decade forest certification has become increasingly prevalent in the forest management arena. Forest certification schemes are seen as an additional phase to the current forest management practices. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is developing legislation that would require sustainable forest license holders to have their land base certified by 2007[6]. The Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC)[7] requires its members to certify their land management practices through CSA, FSC or SFI. Certification can alleviate environmental and consumer concern, provide a 'green stamp' of approval, increase the value of forest products and maintain market share.

While First Nations communities may be interested in forest certification, the effort and costs required to certify on-reserve lands can be a significant deterrent to certification. Most communities do not have the ability to achieve complete sustainable forest management on-reserve. Nevertheless a small number of communities have sufficiently developed forest management plans and capacity levels to achieve forest certification.

This project will describe the general level of forest management planning capacity in First Nations communities across Canada. Secondly, it will examine the level of interest of First Nations communities in obtaining forest certification. The objectives for this report are to:

- Determine state of knowledge report on First Nations communities involved in forest management planning on-reserves and certification programs,
- Assess current resource management capacity of First Nations communities,
- Assess level of implementation of existing on-reserve forest management plans,
- Determine interest levels of First Nations to pursue and achieve forest certification,
- Describe forest certification opportunities for First Nations on-reserve lands and
- Describe potential forest certification partnerships/opportunities between First Nations and the First Nations Forestry Program

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6 The Ministry of Natural Resources considers CSA, FSC and SFI to be acceptable performance-based certification programs (B. Vankerkhof, personal communication, June 13, 2005).

7 The Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC) promotes and represents Canada's wood, pulp, and paper producers nationally and internationally in government, trade, and environmental affairs. FPAC members are responsible for 75% of the working forests in Canada. Third-party certification became a condition of membership in the association in 2002. For more information see www.fpac.ca

Methodology

The methodology incorporated quantitative analytical techniques to inform the current state of First Nations forest management plan development capacity and community interest in forest certification for on-reserve forest land. It was determined that a questionnaire, with closed and open-ended questions, would be the most cost and time-effective strategy to meet the goal and objectives of the project. Project survey activity commenced on January 14, 2005 and ended on March 31, 2005. In addition, four case studies of First Nations communities that have achieved or are currently pursuing forest certification were conducted to highlight different approaches to certification. Two First Nation communities with woodlots and two 100% First Nation owned forest management companies were compared in the case studies.

Community Selection

First Nations communities that had received funding from the FNFP and its predecessor, the Indian Lands Forestry Program, to complete forest management plans (FMPs) for on-reserve lands between 1984 and 1997 were listed by FNFP officials. During that time period approximately 90 First Nations communities[8] had received funding to complete FMPs. Survey participation was then restricted to only those First Nations communities with a total on-reserve forested area greater than 4,200[9] hectares. This cut-off limit was set to maintain uniformity between the sample communities and have a feasible number of community contacts. No First Nation communities in Atlantic Canada met the eligibility criteria. In total, 46 First Nations communities located in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec met the eligibility criteria and was included in the survey sample population. Appendix II provides a list of the communities by province.

Survey Instrument

The survey instrument (Appendix III) was comprised of contained close-ended and open-ended questions. The general focus of the interview was pre-determined on forest management plan development capacity and interest in forest certification. Nevertheless, the interview process did provide opportunities for participants to provide feedback on the FNFP and other forestry related information not addressed by the questionnaire. This flexibility assisted to identify a greater number of key issues on a provincial or First Nations community basis. The survey instrument was pre-tested by two eligible

8 Communities were located in the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec.

9 The cut-off limit was lowered to 3,500 hectares of total forested area on-reserve for the province of Manitoba as very few First Nation communities met the 4,200 hectare cut-off.

respondents to determine its applicability and appropriateness. Suggestions and comments from these tests and additional discussions with the FNFP official were incorporated into the final survey instrument design.

Survey Implementation & Data Collection:

Detailed contact information, mailing addresses and phone numbers for Chiefs and Forestry/Land/Resource Managers of the eligible communities was gathered. A project information package comprised of a survey information letter[10], sample questions and a proposed Executive Summary table of contents, was then mailed to the key informants on December 31, 2004. Follow-up phone calls were placed approximately two weeks after the introduction package mail-out date to communities in Ontario and Quebec and then expanded to the rest of Canada the following week. The purpose of the follow-up call was three-fold:

i) to make a verbal contact with potential survey respondents;

ii) to determine if the survey introduction letter was received by the intended recipient; and

iii) to enlist potential survey respondents.

A minimum of five phone calls were placed to each First Nations community key informant[11] to enlist potential survey participants. The survey instrument was then administered by one of three methods: 1) telephone call-outs on pre-arranged times and dates as determined by respondents, 2) by electronic mail if time to participate in phone survey was not possible, or 3) by facsimile. Telephone survey responses were entered into MSWord® during the interviews. All completed surveys were printed and stored as electronic files in the ASG office for backup and analysis purposes.

Survey Analysis

The analysis of close-ended and open-ended questions provides descriptive and quantitative details of the sample population. The analysis of select closed and open-ended questions illustrate on-reserve forest management capacity concerns and interest in forest certification.

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10 The survey information letter contains background information of the project, an invitation to participate in the survey, directions of how to complete the survey and ASG contact information.

11 Key informants and respondents are people who are actively engaged in forest management practices of on-reserve lands. The list of identified key individuals may include Chief and Band Council members, reserve land forest managers, economic development officers, First Nations community members and consultants.

Survey Response Rates

In total, 19 surveys out of 46 were completed, resulting in a 41.3% response rate. To mitigate the effects of a low response rate, interviewers attempted to complete a questionnaire in every province with eligible communities. Response rate by province is presented in Table 1. There were a number of circumstances that contributed to the low survey response rate. A different FNFP survey was being conducted simultaneously that targeted similar community survey respondents. This may have resulted in respondent fatigue of the targeted sample population. Also, a large number of the intended recipients did not receive the information package. This further delayed the survey process. Most key informants were frequently unavailable or absent. In other instances, some communities were not aware of the forest management plan or the program. Recent Band elections impacted survey response rates, key informants were more concerned with campaigning or the newly elected Chief & Council were not familiar with on-reserve forest management activities. For example, in Saskatchewan, three out of the five targeted communities were undergoing, or had recently undergone Band elections. This high number of Band elections and the unavailability of key informants resulted in no information being collected for the province of Saskatchewan. A list of the communities that participated in the survey is shown in Table 2.

As a result of the low response rate the following report findings are not universally applicable to all First Nation communities. Nevertheless, the report does provide valuable information on community forest management plan development capacity and interest in forest certification.

Table 1: Response rate by province

Province	Responded (N)	Eligible (N)	Response Rate (%)
British Columbia	2	7	28.6
Alberta	4	9	44.4
Saskatchewan	0	6	0.0
Manitoba	3	5	60.0
Ontario	8	11	72.8
Quebec	2	8	25.0
TOTAL	**19**	**46**	

Case Study Methodology

Four First Nations forest certification experiences were selected for case studies. The case study selection was based on regional representation, community ownership arrangements and achievement or final stages of a forest certification program. The intended purpose of the case studies is to highlight the breadth of forest certification experiences and identify similarities between the First Nation communities. First and second source information was gathered through interviews with key informants, pamphlets, internet searches and other documentation.

Table 2: First Nation community respondents

Province	First Nations Community	On-reserve Forest Area (ha)	FMP completed (year)
British Columbia	705 – Lytton	4,827	1990
	543 – Fort Nelson	4,496	1990
Alberta	431 – O'Chiese	12,435	1991
	455 – Sturgeon Lake	11,448	1992
	464 – Cold Lake	9,515	1995
	434 – Sunchild Cree	4,285	1991
Manitoba	311 - Mathias Colomb	5,970	1993
	282 - Pine Creek	3,983	1995
	262 – Fort Alexander (Sagkeeng)	8,264	1992
Ontario	175 – Wikwemikong	33,004	1989
	183 – Fort Hope (Eabametoong)	22,923	1989
	220 – Nipissing	20,745	1996
	224 – Whitefish Lake	14,809	1987
	218 – Dokis Bay	12,939	1989
	199 – Ojibways of Garden River	11,961	1993
	150 – Islington (Wabaseemoong Independent Nations)	7,548	1991
	231 – French River (Henvey Inlet)	7,299	1992
Quebec	060 – Cree Nation of Wemindji	17,528	1985
	073 – Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg	15,149	1988-1993

Results

The results are broken into three sections. The first will address questionnaire responses related to on-reserve forest management planning capacity. The second section will address the levels of interest and knowledge of forest certification at the community level and by individual respondents. First Nations Chiefs, forestry officers, economic development officers and Band councillors with the natural resources/forestry portfolio were the key informants in the questionnaire. Finally, results from the four case studies, Eel Ground First Nation (NB), Pictou Landing First Nation (NS), Services Forestiers Opitciwan (QC), and Iisaak Forest Products (BC) will be displayed. Case study informants were forestry managers or certification officers. Generally, forest management planning capacity and interest in forest certification varied by community. More specifically, the following sections will highlight forest management planning capacity and the current level of resource availability (human and financial), describe community interest and knowledge of forest certification and illustrate certification achievement similarities and differences between the case study groups.

I. Forest Management Plan Development, Implementation & Capacity

Forest management plan development, implementation and capacity questions were developed to determine the current status and level to which First Nations communities are involved in the forest management plan development process. Respondents were asked if there was a forest management plan in place for the community on-reserve forest land base. Their responses, displayed in Figure 1, depict that the majority (42%) of First Nation communities had a Forest management plan currently in place, 31% had no forest management plan in place while 21% were currently updating a plan[12]. Only 5% of respondents surveyed did not know if such a plan for the on-reserve forest land base existed.

12 Updating plans refers to those communities that are in the midst of reviewing and revising plans that have expired or contain inaccurate information. Two communities are updating expired plans while the other two communities are updating plans that require revisions. Revisions are a considerable sized task for First Nation communities given their lack of resources and generally occur when resources become available.

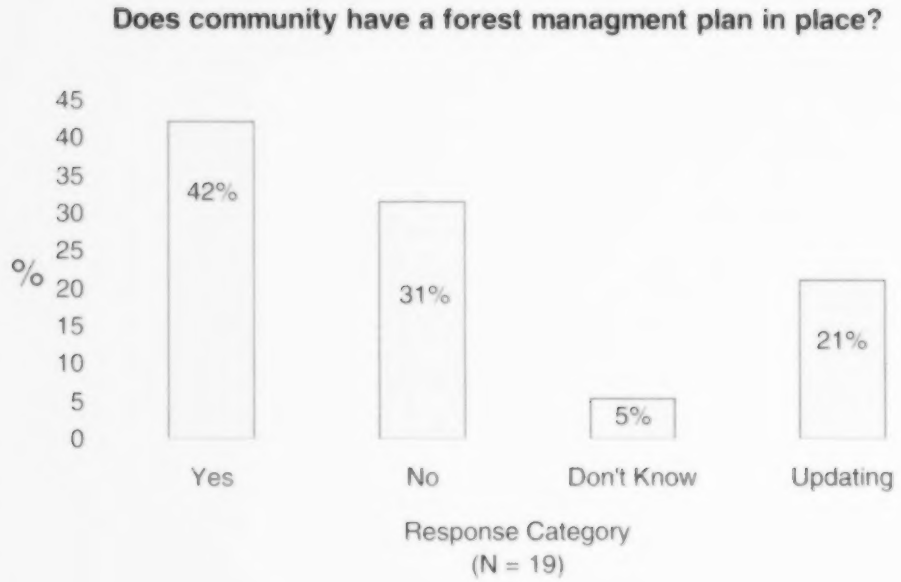

Figure 1. Percentage of First Nations communities with a forest management plan.

The ability of a First Nations community to manage and develop a forest management plan can be considered a function of available human and financial resources. Nine communities have a natural resource staff member and the remaining ten communities do not. Communities that did have a natural resource department typically employed only one to two staff member(s). Only two communities had departments with three to five staff. The largest natural resource department was in British Columbia. See Figure 2 for complete breakdown of these categories. The five member staff included a GIS trainee, Lands administrator, a referral coordinator, an Archaeologist, department chair and one support staff. Most respondents acknowledged that their budget and manpower levels were inadequate to fully implement or complete a proper review of the current forest management plan. All community respondents expressed some degree of frustration with the lack of support provided by First Nations leaders across all levels of administration with regards to sustainable forest management and practices. They also felt federal and provincial funding sources did little to provide meaningful contributions to the advancement of forest management on-reserve.

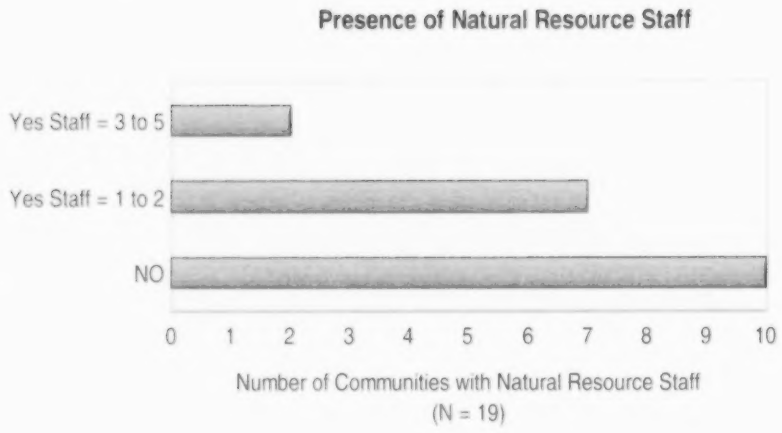
Presence of Natural Resource Staff
Yes Staff = 3 to 5
Yes Staff = 1 to 2
NO
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Number of Communities with Natural Resource Staff
(N = 19)

Figure 2. Presence of First Nations on-reserve forestry/natural resources department.

Without adequate funding and human resources First Nations communities rely on off-reserve experts to develop their current and past forest management plans. The extent to which the surveyed communities rely on on-reserve and off-reserve expertise is reflected in Figure 3. The majority (42%) of forest management plans were developed by off-reserve experts (e.g. consultants), while on-reserve plan development was split between forestry managers (21%) or economic development officers (16%). The remaining 21% of communities do not place an emphasis on forest activities. On-reserve Economic Development officers and their staff also developed forestry related projects programs for community members[13].

13 It is important to note that most Economic Development Officers did not have formal forestry training or a background in forestry but promote forestry as one of the many community economic interests.

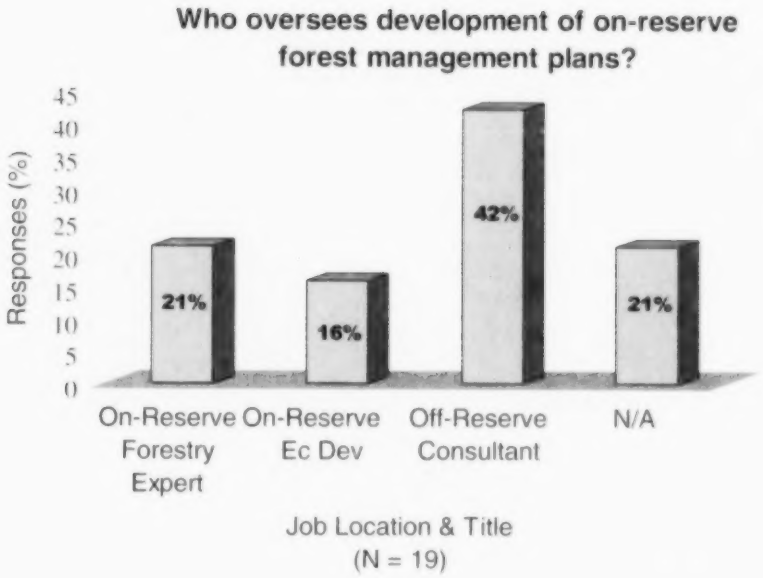

Figure 3. Development of on-reserve forest management plans.

II. Awareness & Importance of Forest Certification

The second half of the survey instrument elicited information on the awareness of forest certification and the interest to achieve forest certification for the on-reserve forest land base. Most survey participants were aware of forest certification, however, when asked to respond on the overall community awareness of forest certification, 78% of respondents replied that their community possessed little to no awareness of forest certification (see Figure 4). Only 11% responded that their community was aware of certification.

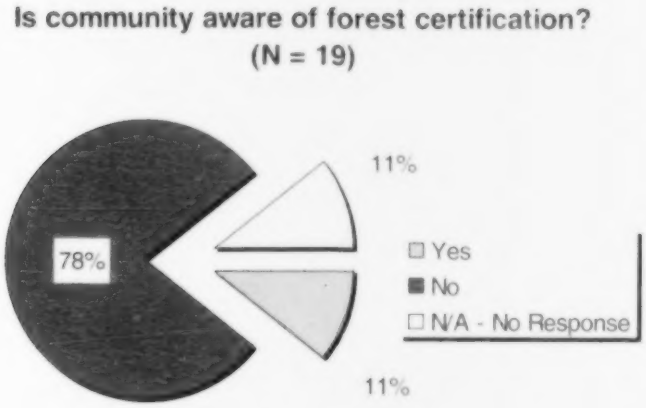

Figure 4. Community awareness of forest certification.

While the majority (11 out of 19) of survey participants were aware of forest certification, their knowledge on the subject varied greatly. Six respondents knew of three or more certification schemes and were well-versed on the benefits of certification and the different forest certification schemes currently available. Five community representatives could not identify more than two certification schemes. The remaining six respondents were not able to identify any forest management certification programs while two respondents did not respond. Those familiar with certification felt that the FSC program was most inclusive of their culture, from medicines to special places. The FSC and CSA certification programs were the most frequently recognized or self-reported schemes by respondents at ten mentions each. ISO was mentioned eight times, followed by SFI with five mentions. ForestCare and Woodlot certification schemes were only mentioned once each respectively.

Certification newsletters, pamphlets, self-guided readings and communication with other resource professionals were reported to be the most common sources of information. Two respondents, however, indicated that their familiarity with forest certification came through contact with forest companies that operated around their communities. Their knowledge of forest certification was limited to the certification scheme being pursued by the forest company.

Key informants who reported on a general community-wide lack of knowledge on forest certification felt that it would be difficult to implement a forest certification scheme. Based on their experiences at the community level, survey respondents did not see forest certification as a high priority for their on-reserve community forested lands for three reasons:

1. Community leadership and thus agendas, as stated by respondents, do not place forestry as a very high community priority;

2. First Nations forestry and economic development officers continue to grapple with basic forestry issues such as the development and implementation of forest management plans, compliance and enforcement of best forest management practices on-reserve, the restoration of on-reserve forest lands in addition to Band funding and human resources constraints, and;

3. Those knowledgeable on forest certification see the schemes as extremely complex and would require a large amount of financial and human resources.

The majority of forestry and economic development officers that responded to questions on potential forest certification partnership arrangements listed the First Nations Forestry Program and other government funding agencies, at all levels of government, as possible funding and expertise linkages. Three key informants also commented that the role of the forest industry should be limited to information and technical advice.

Additional Findings

Two of the most overwhelming self-reported comments briefly stated by respondents are highlighted in this section to enhance the scope of this report. The two areas of concern were:

1) The ability to secure funds[14], and;

2) the lack of on-reserve technical forestry expertise and knowledge transfer.

Community respondents talked about the large amount of time required to find and secure funding for projects. Two respondents also reported having difficulty with the written requirements of the 2005 First Nations Forestry Program proposal application form. The layout of the application was not user friendly, especially the layout of budgets and the detailed project description. Survey respondents frequently mentioned the difficulty in finding community members eligible to pursue funding or that have completed formal natural resource training at the post secondary level. The ability to attract and keep experience resource staff was difficult. Either funding was not stable or positions work terms (part-time versus full-time) were not attractive to natural resource staff. Forest and economic development officers, community members and Councillors with the forestry/natural resources portfolio replied they were typically self-taught on forestry policy and forestry-related funding programs.

III. Case Studies

The four case study groups: two First Nations communities and two 100% First Nations-owned forest management companies that have pursued forest certification are Eel Ground First Nation (NB), Pictou Landing First Nation (NS), Scierie Opitciwan (QC), and Iisaak Forest Products (BC). These communities, located across Canada, were selected as case studies to illustrate the different approaches communities and organizations have taken in order to mobilize their communities and achieve forest certification in their traditional territory. The communities and organizations are briefly described and then their paths to forest certification are presented in Table 3.

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14 Some communities felt their on-reserve land base was too small for a forest management plan or the moratoriums in place for on-reserve lands made their forestry funding opportunities on-reserve non-existent. However, there are examples of communities such as Eel Ground Reserve, New Brunswick, that have managed to work within the limitations of their land base to secure and attract funding.

Eel Ground First Nation

Eel Ground First Nation is a Mi'kmaq community in New Brunswick that is composed of Eel Ground #2, Big Hole Tract #8, and the south half of Renous #12. The most recent population estimate was 844, with 519 living on-reserve, and 325 living off-reserve (of whom 14 live on other reserves)[15].

The Eel Ground community forest is comprised of 2,833 hectares of forest land in two tracts, both on federal Indian Reserve lands. These forested areas have been intensively logged for fuel wood, pulp, and lumber for over a century by both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginals.

Eel Ground initiated and adopted a Forestry Plan in 1990 which led to the end of unrestricted harvesting activity. The current management goals of the Eel Ground forest are to increase employment and economic development on the reserve, maintain and improve the resource for future generations and to encourage a wide range of economic and recreational uses of the forest. Forest management plans for the forests controlled by Eel Ground achieved FSC certification in the fall of 2005.

Pictou Landing First Nation

Pictou Landing First Nation is a Mi'kmaq community found in north eastern Nova Scotia, near New Glasgow and Amherst. The most recent community population estimate was 384. The Pictou Landing First Nation woodlot is approximately 1,025 acres (384.5 hectares). The woodlot is covered in mixed conifers (red and white spruce, and balsam fir) and deciduous species (paper birch), typical tree species of the Acadian Forest Region[16]. In March 2000, Pictou Land First Nation was the first Aboriginal community to achieve FSC certification of its forest lands.

In the late 1980's community members began to take more interest in their woodlands which led to the eventual certification of their woodlot. A forest management plan was first developed in 1985 to tend and manage the resource on a long-term basis in order to obtain maximum value and benefit for the community and future generations. In accordance with the management plan a number of forestry training programs have been completed, various silvicultural treatments have been implemented and 7.4 km of forest access road have been constructed. In the mid 1990's, interest in certification through the FSC grew. After an initial assessment to identify the gap between current forest management and FSC criteria the Band was then able to determine the steps necessary to certify their forestry operations and management plans. Therefore, in 1999, the Band completed a new forest management plan that provided a blueprint for the sustainable development of their woodlot. The long-term goal of the plan is to restore the woodlot to pre-colonization conditions. In 2000, these efforts culminated in the achievement of FSC and a sustainable forest that is managed from a community, social, economic, and environmental perspective.

Iisaak Forest Products

Iisaak Forest Products conducts its forest management activities on the west coast of Vancouver Island within the boundaries of Clayoquot Sound. Now 100% First Nations owned, the company was initially a joint venture that began in 1998 between Ma-Mook Development Corporation and the forest company

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15 See http://mrc.uccb.ns.ca/nbcouncils.html#4.

16 For additional information see http://www.brandsystems.net/SmartWood/CustomerFactSheets/3026.asp

operating in the area. MacMillan Bloedel Ltd (later bought out by Weyerhauser Canada)[17]. Ma-Mook Development Corporation (currently named Ma-Mook Natural Resources Ltd.) was established to represent the collective economic interests of the five Nuu-chah-nulth Central Region First Nations. These communities have the responsibility to conserve and protect their traditional territories and waters for generations which will follow. The forests is being managed by Iisaak Forest Products and are FSC certified.

Services Forestiers Opitciwan

Services Forestiers Opitciwan (SFO) is a 100% Aboriginal owned company that was created in 1990. It is located 250 km northwest of Saint-Félicien, Quebec. Its main client is Scierie Opitciwan (sawmill)[18]. SFO has expertise in forestry development and planning projects (e.g. harvesting and forest inventory). It focuses on the development and recognition of Atikamekw Nations' expertise in forest operations and integrated forest resource management. SFO also promotes the economic interests of the Atikamekw of Opitciwan and development of the Opitciwan community. There are currently over 130 people employed in forest-related activities and operations in SFO's area of operation. On February 18, 2005, SFO achieved ISO 14,001 certification of its public forest license and private and forestry reserve lands..

17 On June 2, 2005 Iisaak came under full First Nation ownership as Ma-Mook Natural Resources Ltd acquired Weyerhaeuser's interest in Iisaak.

18 Scierie Opitciwan (sawmill) is a joint agreement mill arrangement with Attikamek Band Council of Opitciwan (majority partner) and Abitibi-Consolidated Ltd.

Table 3. Forest Certification Case Study Communities: Road to Certification

Community	Forest Area* (ha)	Start of Forestry Program	Forest Management Plans (FMP)	Organization Structure
Eel Ground First Nation, New Brunswick	2,833	1980's	1990 – first forestry plan to stop unrestricted harvest activity	Community Economic Development Corporation
Pictou Landing First Nation, Nova Scotia	384.5	1980's	1985 – first FMP	Pictou First Nation Band Council
Iisaak Forest Products, British Columbia	87,700	Mid-1990's	2000 – committed to Hishuk-ish ts'awalk (guiding principles of respect & interconnectedness of all things)	Originally Joint Partnership 100% First Nations ownership by June 2005
Services Forestiers Opitciwan, Quebec	110,000	1990's	1990 – emphasize & develop Atikamekw Nations' expertise	100% Aboriginal enterprise Principal client Scierie Opitciwan (sawmill)

Community & Forest Tenure	Certification Scheme & Year Achieved	Road to Certification	Certification Advice & Observations
Eel Ground First Nation, New Brunswick Reserve Lands	FSC September 2005	Community driven & targeted process Developed community capacity C&C onboard & community informed Organized funding Conducted Scoping analysis (determine feasibility of pursuing certification) Committed to full FSC directives & assessment	Secure funds Maintain community forestry capacity Need a dedicated forestry team
Pictou Landing First Nation, Nova Scotia Woodlot	FSC March 2000	Community driven & targeted process Nurtured a sustainable forestry atmosphere in community Educate community Organised funding. Conducted Scoping analysis (determine feasibility of pursuing certification) Committed to full FSC directives & assessment	High costs associated with certification Realize non-monetary values Encourage other First Nations communities to practice sustainable forest management first

Community & Forest Tenure	Certification Scheme & Year Achieved	Road to Certification	Certification Advice & Observations
Iisaak Forest Products, British Columbia Tree Farm License & Timber Licenses	FSC June 2001	Regionally driven process Development of Ma-Mook Natural Resources Ltd. First Nations representation on CSSP Recommendation of CSSP Conducted Scoping analysis (determine feasibility of pursuing certification) Committed to full FSC directives & assessment	Select certification scheme that matches product & target markets Return on investment is not always realized Ensure community support
Services Forestiers Opitciwan, Quebec Public, Private & Community/ Forestry reserve	ISO 14,001 February 2005	Business decision – emphasize protection of the environment Assess need and decide to pursue forest certification Obtain assistance and expertise of a consultant Hire an ISO coordinator for development, implementation & maintenance of environmental management system (SME) Put in place SME and follow-up with internal audits Conduct registration audit - CERTIFIED	Development of a management system with follow-up& improvement processes ISO 14,001 is a first step to more certification Needed to remain competitive

* All forest areas are certified.

Discussion

This section discusses the current state of First Nations on-reserve forest management planning, implementation and management capacity, community interest in forest certification and opportunities for the certification of on-reserve lands.

First Nations communities are involved in the management of their on-reserve forest land base, from intense on- and off-reserve management to no community programs. These communities continue to struggle with the maintenance of a permanent forestry program. Completion and updating of a forest management plan requires a long-term commitment to human and financial resources. First Nations communities are interested in their on-reserve forests but most tend to lack the technical skills and highly technological tools (e.g. GIS and computer programs) to complete forest management plans. Funds needed to acquire or access such equipment and expertise is substantial, as a result communities often look to off-reserve funding sources to assist in the development of their forestry plans.

Reliance on off-reserve experts to develop forest management plans continues to be a common occurrence for communities across the country. Off-reserve consultants have been able to acquire the capital to purchase expensive equipment and maintain a steady workforce. A reliance on off-reserve advice can impact on-reserve forestry expertise, levels of community involvement and forest management schemes (e.g. industrial forestry model). Non-Aboriginal foresters that are often hired by the First Nations communities for the most part do not have the necessary grasp of what the First Nations needs truly are from a cultural perspective in the management of the projects as an Aboriginal forester would possess.

A strong and healthy forestry program on reserves requires expertise and funding resources. Communities are able to implement forest management plans to some extent when a consistent supply of funds and human resources are made available. Unfortunately, changes to Chief and Council or community priorities typically results in the loss of forestry program expertise and the eventual expiration of a forest management plan. Some communities have chosen to create a forestry economic development corporation that is separate from the political arena. This decision has resulted in a more stable management environment for forest management while maintaining a certain level of community leadership involvement.

Most forestry program officers continue to struggle with the development, organization and advancement of community on-reserve forest management programs. Forest certification is a complex undertaking that requires a stable and committed community with support expertise. In most cases, with one to two forestry officers in a community, it would be extremely difficult for most to undertake the process of certification. Respondents frequently commented that their communities are not aware of or have not expressed an interest in forest certification for on-reserve forest lands. Most on-reserve forestry program or economic development officers are concerned with the development of a sustainable on-reserve forest but are not in a position to undertake forest certification. The development of partnerships, for the vast majority of First Nations communities, to pursue forest certification seems premature at this time when their main concern is maintenance of a stable on-reserve forestry program.

Conclusion & Recommendations

In conclusion, First Nations communities require various support mechanisms to maintain and develop forestry programs that meet their unique goals and objectives. First Nations communities that responded to this survey find themselves in vastly different and sometimes difficult situations as they move forward with on-reserve forestry mandates. Community mandates ranged from harvesting moratoriums to forestry economic development corporations to the adoption of industrial forestry. While each community had their own unique set of forest management circumstances, constraints and certification interests, similarities in their experiences were evident.

First Nations communities are aware of the forest environment in their backyard; however, they need to reinforce a long term commitment and vision that is driven by the community and is dedicated to a renewed relationship with the land. Funding programs and partnership arrangements can assist these communities when they are responsive and able to adapt to the vision of First Nations and their relationship with the land. First Nations communities must be able to influence the deliverables and outcomes of funding programs and partnership arrangements. The following recommendations identify key areas of concern.

1. First Nations communities need to develop and be committed to long-term forest management strategies that are insulated from short-term Band politics.

Community funding and expertise are strongly impacted by changes to the political landscape of the community. Communities need to look to other institutional arrangements that can create a more stable resource management environment (e.g. creation of economic development corporations or community co-operatives).

2. Government agencies need to collaborate with First Nations communities to develop support infrastructure dedicated to sustainable forest management of on-reserve forest lands.

First Nations communities need institutional support to have well-developed and planned forest strategies that promote and support a distinctly Aboriginal long-term forest vision. Too often First Nation communities are encouraged to follow the industrial forest model both on and off-reserve. First Nations communities need access to resources to develop forest management plans that REFLECT their values and needs

3. Funding programs like FNFP need to reassess their program deliverables and strategies to ensure they REFLECT the values and institutional arrangement reality of First Nations communities.

Evaluations of funding programs are necessary to assure its relevance and appropriateness. The evaluation 'measures of success' need to be developed with First Nations communities so as to reflect their unique culture and experiences. Short-term and long-term outcomes and down-stream deliverables of the FNFP need to be included in the evaluation.

4. Investigate the appropriateness of a new funding mechanism within FNFP that focuses on the First Nations perspective of forest management.

Too often First Nations communities adopt the industrial forestry model instead of the development and implementation of sustainable forestry that closer reflects Aboriginal values. This new mechanism would focus on community-driven sustainable forestry projects and institutional arrangements not currently eligible for funding.

5. FNFP needs to reassess their approach to funding allocations.

Yearly provincial FNFP fixed budgets and approvals criteria influence the size and scope of approved projects. Large scale, multi-year projects geared towards sustainable forest management cannot be carried out or funded under current approval criteria.

6. FNFP needs to investigate what impacts FNFP programs & projects have on First Nations communities.

The FNFP funds many conferences and on-reserve forestry projects. It would be very useful for FNFP to analysis the impacts of conferences and projects of a similar nature (e.g. stand tending) across the country to determine the usefulness and downstream outcomes of the different types of funded projects. The comparison of projects against one another can provide useful information for the First Nations communities and FNFP.

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Websites

Canadian Sustainable Forestry Certification Coalition: http://www.sfms.com

Confederation of European Paper Industries - Comparative Matrix of Forest Certification Schemes: http://www.forestrycertification.info/phpprograms/Content/story_template.php3?txtid=home

First Nations Forestry Programs: http://www.fnfp.gc.ca/index_e.php

Forests and the European Union Resource Network (FERN): http://www.fern.org/pubs/reports/footprints.pdf

ISO 14000 series Environmental Management Systems: http://www.iso14000-iso14001-environmental-management.com/

Natural Resources Canada: http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/cfs-scf/index_e.html

APPENDIX I: Key Similarities Across SFM Certification Programs Used in Canada which Promote SFM, Transparency, And Credibility

#	Similarities	CSA SFM Standard (CAN/CSA-Z809-02)	FSC Principles & Criteria	SFI® Standard (SFIS 2005-2009)
1	**Conservation of biological diversity**	√ *Conserve biological diversity by maintaining integrity, function, and diversity of living organisms and the complexes of which they are a part.* (CCFM Criterion 1 - a CSA requirement) Note: CSA also addresses this issue through its CSA SFM Element 1.4 Protected Areas and Sites of Special Biological Significance.	√ *Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.* (FSC P6) Note: FSC also addresses this issue through its Principle 9 Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF).	√ *Programs to promote biological diversity at stand and landscape levels* (Performance Measure 4.1) Note: SFI also addresses this issue through it's Commitment to the Protection of Special Sites and Forests With Exceptional Conservation Value, Conservation of Biodiversity Hotspots and Major Tropical Wilderness Areas (SFI Program Overview 5.0)
2	**Maintenance of wildlife habitats and species diversity**	√ *Conserve ecosystem diversity at the landscape level by maintaining the variety of communities and ecosystems that naturally occur in the defined forest area.* (CSA SFM Element 1.1) *Conserve species diversity by ensuring that habitats for the native species found in the defined forest area are maintained through time.* (CSA SFM Element 1.2)	√ *Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including:* *a) Forest regeneration and succession.* *b) Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity.* (FSC 6.3) *Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g., nesting and feeding areas).* (FSC 6.2) These critical habitats are also addressed through the High Conservation value assessment . (FSC 9.1 and 9.3)	√ *Apply knowledge, gained through research, science, technology, and field experience to manage wildlife habitat and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity.* (Performance Measure 4.2) *Plans to locate and protect known sites associated with viable occurrences of critically imperiled and imperiled species and communities.* (Indicator 4.1.3)

#	Similarities	CSA SFM Standard (CAN/CSA-Z809-02)	FSC Principles & Criteria	SFI® Standard (SFIS 2005-2009)
3	**Protected areas and maintenance of special sites / values**	√ *Respect protected areas identified through government processes. Identify sites of special biological significance within the defined forest area and implement management strategies appropriate to their long-term maintenance.* (CSA SFM Element 1.4) *Respect traditional Aboriginal forest values and uses identified through the Aboriginal input process.* (CSA SFM Element 6.1)	√ *Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps... (FSC 6.4)* *Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests...* (FSC P9)	√ *Identify special sites and manage them in a manner appropriate for their unique features.* (Performance Measure 6.1) Note: SFI has incorporated several requirements to protect forests with exceptional conservation values.
4	**Maintenance of soil and water resources**	√ *Conserve soil resources by maintaining soil quality and quantity.* (CSA SFM Element 3.1) √ *Conserve water resources by maintaining water quality and quantity.* (CSA SFM Element 3.2)	√ *Written guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to control erosion, minimize forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbance; and protect water resources.* (FSC 6.3 & 6.5)	√ *Implement management practices to protect and maintain forest and soil productivity.* (Performance Measure 2.3) √ *Meet or exceed Best Management Practices developed under Environmental Protection Agency-approved state water quality programs...* (Performance Measure 3.2)
5	**Sustainable harvests**	√ *Manage the forest sustainably to produce an acceptable and feasible mix of both timber and non-timber benefits.* (CSA SFM Element 5.1) √ *Conserve forest ecosystem productivity and productive capacity by maintaining ecosystem conditions that are capable of supporting naturally occurring species.* (CSA SFM Element 2.2)	√ *The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained.* (FSC 5.6)	√ *Ensure that long-term harvest levels are sustainable and consistent with relevant growth and yield models and written plans.* (Performance Measure 1.1)

#	Similarities	CSA SFM Standard (CAN/CSA-Z809-02)	FSC Principles & Criteria	SFI® Standard (SFIS 2005-2009)
6	**Unacceptability of wood from illegal or unauthorized sources**	√ *Products marked with the CSA SFM Mark must not contain any wood or wood raw material from illegal or unauthorized harvesting such as harvesting in forest areas protected by law...* (Specifications for Use of the CSA SFM Mark Document)	√ *Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.* (FSC 1.5)	√ *Procurement policies support the principles of sustainable forestry including efforts to thwart illegal logging and promote conservation of biological diversity.* (Performance Measure 8.5)
7	**Protecting forestlands from deforestation and conversion**	√ *Protect forestlands from deforestation or conversion to non-forests.* (CSA SFM Element 4.2)	√ *Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion...* (FSC 6.10 & 10.9)	√ *Reforest after final harvest...,through artificial regeneration with two years or two planting seasons, or by planned natural regeneration methods within five years.* (Performance Measure 2.1)
8	**Aboriginal rights and / or involvement**	√ *Aboriginal and Treaty Rights: Recognize and respect Aboriginal and treaty rights. (CSA SFM Element 6.1)* √ *Respect for Aboriginal Forest Values, Knowledge, and Uses: Respect traditional Aboriginal forest values and uses identified through the Aboriginal input process.* (CSA SFM Element 6.2) √*Demonstrate through documentation that efforts were made to encourage Aboriginal forest users and communities to become involved in identifying and addressing SFM values;* (CSA 5.2d)	√ *Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.* (FSC 3.1) √ *Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.* (FSC 3.2) √*Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.* (FSC 3.3) √ *Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge ...* (FSC 3.4)	√ *Program Participants with forest management responsibilities on public lands shall confer with affected indigenous peoples.* (Performance Measure 12.4) *Indicator 1:* *Program that includes communicating with affected indigenous peoples to enable Program participants to understand and respect traditional forest-related knowledge; identify and protect spiritually, historically, or culturally important sites; and address the sustainable use of nontimber forest products of value to indigenous peoples in areas where Program Participants have management responsibilities on public lands.*

#	Similarities	CSA SFM Standard (CAN/CSA-Z809-02)	FSC Principles & Criteria	SFI® Standard (SFIS 2005-2009)
9	**Independent audit required for certification claims**	√ 3rd party audit by certifier (registrar) accredited by national standards system body, SCC, according to ISO guidelines.	√ 3rd party audit by a certifier accredited by FSC International.	√ 3rd party audit by certifier must be environmental management system registrars and accredited by the American National Standards Institute or the Standards Council of Canada.
10	**Audit of forest planning and practices**	√ Audit includes but is not limited to checking SFM plans and practices to ensure conformance with plans and requirements of the standard.	√ Audit includes but is not limited to checking SFM plans and practices to ensure conformance with plans and requirements of the standard. (FSC P7)	√ Audit includes but is not limited to checking SFM plans and practices to ensure conformance with plans and requirements of the standard.
11	**Public disclosure required**	√ Requires public disclosure of the full certification audit report, SFM Plan and SFM annual report.	√ Requires public disclosure of a summary of the certification audit report, as well as a summary of the primary elements of the management plan and of the results of the monitoring indicators.	√ Claims of certification shall be accompanied by a public report made available on the SFB web-site which includes a summary of the audit findings, including general descriptions of any non-conformances and corrective action plans to address them…
12	**NGO involvement/ support for the certification standard**	√ Members of CSA SFM Technical Committee who drafted the standard include Wildlife Habitat Canada, Canadian Wildlife Federation, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, consumer and labour NGOs.	√ Large ENGOs such as WWF, Sierra Club, GreenPeace and Forest Ethics support the objectives of FSC and have been involved to varying extents in providing input into FSC standards for Canada and in promoting the FSC brand in the marketplace.	√The SFB was chartered as an independent body in July of 2000 to oversee development and continuous improvement of the SFIS. The SFB representation includes: The Nature Conservancy The Conservation Fund In addition, almost 50 conservation agencies support the SFI objectives.

#	Similarities	CSA SFM Standard (CAN/CSA-Z809-02)	FSC Principles & Criteria	SFI® Standard (SFIS 2005-2009)
13	**Chain of Custody & Label Option** All standards offer several label options for use on-product and/or on-packaging to demonstrate product links to SFM certification. Some examples of label options are provided in this row, for a full list of labels, visit the web-sites noted in the row below.	 √ Label use requires certification (qualification) to CSA chain of custody, CSA Plus 1163, and adherence to label use requirements which include the following minimum thresholds: **Pulp, paper and composite**: 70% CSA certified content minimum **Solid wood:** 100% CSA certified content or 70% CSA certified content minimum option.	 √ Label use requires certification to FSC chain of custody Standard 40-004 as well as following the %-based claims policy. There are 3 categories of FSC labels as summarized below: **FSC Pure Label** – requires 100% FSC certified material. **FSC Mixed Label** – there are 3 variations in this labeling category which employs a threshold or a credit system and entails a mix of well managed forests, other controlled sources and/or recycled fibre. The minimum FSC certified content ranges from 10% to 90% depending on a variety of factors including post-consumer material, but these details are best understood by referring to pages 13 & 14 of FSC STD-40-004. **FSC Recycled Label** – requires 100% recycled content.	 √ Label use requires adherence to the SFI Label Use Requirements Document. **Primary producers** must be SFI certified, they must also ensure procured wood is either SFI or ATFS certified and/or procured through a 3rd party certified procurement system, where at least 1/3 (by weight) of the total wood fiber content must come from sources certified to SFI or ATFS. **Note:** Primary producers are considered manufacturing facilities acquiring 50%+ or more of its material from the woods or that sells timber from their own land. **Secondary producers** must ensure that at least 2/3rds of the fibre is SFI or ATFS certified, or from neutral sources, i.e. recovered wood, and no less than 1/3 of the total wood fiber content is SFI or ATFS certified. **Note:** Secondary producers acquire less than 50% of their raw materials from the woods or by entities not eligible for SFI Participation, because they purchase less than 5% of their material form the woods.

#	Similarities	CSA SFM Standard (CAN/CSA-Z809-02)	FSC Principles & Criteria	SFI® Standard (SFIS 2005-2009)
14	**Free access to Standard**	√ - see web-site below	√ - see web-site below	√ - see web-site below
15	**More info? Go to www.CertificationCanada.org**	**certifiedwood.csa.ca** (no www)	**www.fscoax.org** **www.fsccanada.org**	**www.aboutsfi.org** **www.aboutsfb.org**

Source: This matrix was prepared by Kathy Abusow (May 2004) for the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC). It appears in the FPAC document "Certification: Similarities & Achievement" and has been reproduced here with the expressed permission of Kathy Abusow.

This matrix is based on information publicly available from the following organizations: CSA, CSA International, SFB, AF&PA, and FSC Canada.

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APPENDIX II: Eligible First Nations Community List

Band # - Community	Total Forested Area (ha)	Year Prepared	FNFP Funded Updates (Year)
British Columbia			
597 – Penticton	12,546	1987	
598 – Lake Similkamen	6,600	1988	2000 & 2004/05
542 – Saulteau	6,100	1984	
705 – Lytton	4,827	1990	
688 – Kamloops	4,544	1987	2004/05
543 – Fort Nelson	4,496	1990	
674 – Lax Kw'alams	4,226	1991	
Alberta			
Stoney Tribal Council	31,229	1992	
458 – Bigstone Cree	12,807	1992	2003/04
431 – O'Chiese	12,435	1991	
432 – Tsuu T'Ina	11,892	1992	
455 – Sturgeon Lake	11,448	1992	
464 – Cold Lake	9,515	1995	
465 – Frog Lake	8,775	1994	
462 – Saddle Lake	7,842	1994	
434 – Sunchild Cree	4,285	1991	
Saskatchewan			
400 – English River	9,504	1986	
404 – Big River	7,762	1992	
353 – Morin Lake	6,442	1984	
402 – Waterhen	4,785	1994	
354 – Montreal Lake	4,431	1983	
353 – Bittern Lake	4,420	1984	

Band # - Community	Total Forested Area (ha)	Year Prepared	FNFP Funded Updates (Year)
Manitoba			
269 – Peguis	9,176	1995	
262 – Fort Alexander (Sagkeeng)	8,264	1992	
311 – Mathias Colomb	5,970	1993	
282 – Pine Creek	3,983	1995	
278 – Norway House	3,534	1996	
Ontario			
175 – Wikwemikong	33,004	1989	2000
183 – Fort Hope	22,923	1989	
220 – Nipissing	20,745	1996	
205 – Lac Seul	20,652	1987	2003
224 – Whitefish Lake	14,809	1987	
218 – Dokis Bay	12,939	1989	
199 – Garden River	11,961	1993	
179 – Sagamok Anishnawbek	9,291	1987	
228 – Brunswick House	8,196	1997	
150 – Islington	7,548	1991	
231 – French River	7,299	1992	
Quebec			
075 – Mistissini	126,182	1994-1999	
056 – Waswanipi	51,032	1994-1999	2001-2002
085 – Betisiamites	20,714	1985-1996	2005-06
060 – Wemindji	17,528	1985	
073 – Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg	15,149	1988-1993	1999-2000
061 – Waskaganish	12,235	1992	
057 – Eastmain	9,670	1985	
070 – Doncaster	7,149	1987-1994	1997-1999

APPENDIX III: Survey Tool

On-Reserve Certification Interview Guide

Community:
Interviewee:
Position:
Interview Date: Start Time: End Time:
Topic Areas:

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING

1. What is the total area of the community on-reserve lands?
2. When was your latest forest management plan completed? How was the FMP funded?
   Interviewer prompt: If DON'T KNOW go to Question 6.
3. Is the forest management plan being carried out?

YES	NO

   Interviewer prompt: If YES to Question 3.
   Interviewer prompt: If NO to Question 4.
4. Who oversees the development and implementation of the plan?
   Interviewer prompt: examples include staff, contractor/consultant, provincial/federal government or other.

Staff	Contractor	Consultant	Provincial	Federal	Other

5. How are the community resources allocated for forest or land resource utilization?
   Interviewer prompt: examples include staffing, equipment, funds.
6. Does your community have a forestry department?
7. What is the management structure of the community land use/ forest operations?
   Interviewer prompt: examples include Chief & Council, community corporation, etc...

Chief & Council		
Community Corp		
Management – Econ Devel		
Partnerships – Industry		
Partnerships - Govt		

   Interviewer prompt lead into partnerships with forest companies if not given.

8. What benefits and opportunities does/could the community receive with continued forest resource management?

Employment	
Skills	
Training	
Education	
Financial	
Other	

9. How could the community increase its forest management capacity?

CERTIFICATION

10. What does forest certification mean to the community?
11. Is the community aware of the forest certification schemes currently available?
    Interviewer prompt: examples include CSA, FSC, ISO, SFI and ForestCare.

	YES	NO
FSC		
CSA		
ISO		
SFI		
Forest Care		
Woodlot Certification		
Other		
Other		

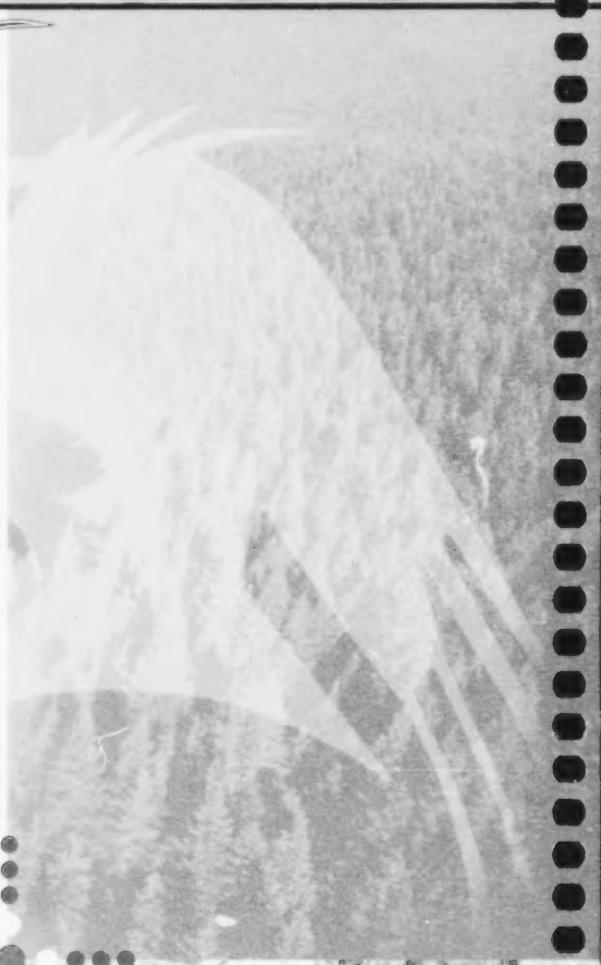
12. How did you become aware of these certification schemes?
    Interviewer prompt: list certification schemes provided.
13. What is the perception of forest management certification as a tool for on-reserve lands?
14. Would your community pursue certification of if its on-reserve lands?
15. Why would (not) the community pursue the identified certification scheme?
16. What scheme would the community pursue?
17. What type of resources would the community need to pursue certification?
    Interviewer prompt: examples include Human resources and financial.
18. Has the community explored funding sources or support for certification? *Interviewer prompt:* examples include industry partnerships, ENGO's, etc.

COMMUNITIES WITH CERTIFICATION

(*Interviewer prompt:* First ask Q 9, 10, 11 & 12)

19. What certification scheme did the community pursue?
20. Has the community seen any benefits/detriments from certification?
21. How long did it take for the community to go through the certification process?
22. What resources did the community utilize to achieve certification?
23. What were the opportunities/constraints to becoming certified?
24. How was the forest management plan altered in preparation for certification?
25. What changes to the forest management infrastructure are necessary for certification implementation and maintenance at the community level?

Interviewer Notes: All questions may not be asked as respondents may have provided information for multiple questions.



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www.fnfp.gc.ca

Natural Resources Canada
Canadian Forest Service
580 Booth Street, 7th Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E4

Phone: (613) 947-7380

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Lands & Trust Services
10 Wellington Street, 17th Floor
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H4

Phone: (819) 953-9557